Chapter 4

FIRST COURT OF POCAHONTAS (cont.)

The business of the third day of this historical term of court was the organization of the 127th Regiment of the State Milita as a part of the Virginia military establishment. The following citizens were commissioned as officials:

John Baxter, Colonel

Benjamin Tallman, Lieutenant Colonel

William Blair, Major

Boone Tallman, William Arbogast

Henry Herold, Isaac Moore

and Milburn Hughes, Captains

Andrew G. Mathews

Robert Warwick, William Morgan

William Young and James Rhea, Lieutenants

Jacob Slaven, James Wanless

Samuel Young and

James Callison, Ensigns

Regimental Muster

From the time of the organization of the 127 Regiment on March 7, 1822 until the Civil War, Regimental Muster days were the big social gatherings of the year. It was the one occasion on which all the men of the county had a chance to get together. Every man between the ages of eighteen and forty-five were required to take part in the military practice.

For several year after the organization of this Regiment the Brigade Inspector was Major John Alexander of Lexington.

He would bring his drummer and fifer with him, two colored men in bright red uniforms. These colored men were the envy of all the colored men of the county.

The Colonel would train the men for about three days. Then on the fourth day came the yearly regimental, or "Big Muster" as it was usually called. This took place in May just after corn planting. People crowded into Huntersville from all sections of the county and there was much social hilarity. The saloons did a flourshing business. About eleven o'clock the long roll of the drum was heard. The colonel and his staff appeared at the head of the street and paraded.the street proceeded by fife and drum. On their return the Colonel instructed the adjutant to have the regiment formed. The Colonel and staff would then return to headquarters.

In the meantime the Captain gave orders for the men to fall into rank When formed the adjutant placed them in position and reported all in readiness. The Colonel and his staff would appear at the head of the regiment. It was then reviewed by the Colonel and his staff proceeded by the band. Then he would return to the head of the regiment. The order was then given to close ranks and form in column of twos. Soon the whole regiment was on the march to a neighboring field selected for the developments. Two or three hours would be passed in drill and fake battle, then the bugle would sound the retreat. The drum and fife would take up Bonapartes Retreat from Moscow" and the whole column would return to Huntersville in slow and regular order. There they disbanded.

Cake, beer and other drinks were then passed round. And then came th celebration for which so many had looked forward. Night usually found many of them still in town sorry it did not last longer. Some of them wou stage fake battle on their way home which can be illustrated by the follo ing event:

In May 1834 on returning from Muster rather late in the evening some of the men were racing their horses in furious charge against imaginary British on the Cummings Creek road, Two miles from Huntersville. While not in the charge. Isaac Jordan's horse seemed to smell something of the make-believe battle, reared and plunged, throwing his rider and severly fracturing his thigh. William Gibson, merchant and hotel keeper at Huntersville was sent for and Mr. Jordan was taken back to Mr. Gibson's home. John Cochran was employed to nurse him for three months until he was able to return home.

Pocahontas citizens who were colonels of the regiment were: John Baxter, Benjamine Tallman, John Hill, Paul McNeel, D.W. Kerr, James Tallman, W.T. Gammon, James T. Lockridge, David W. Kerr.

Juanita S. Dilley
Clover Lick, W. Va.

Regimental Muster Day
and
County Officials